

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. - 24. *cancelled*

25. (*currently amended*) In a telephone network that includes a voicemail server that stores messages and a message notification server that notifies a subscriber device of a message stored in the voicemail server by initiating a voicemail status call to the subscriber call back, the improvement comprising:

multiple mailbox partitions formed within the voicemail server and associated with a single telephone line of the network,

respective unique IDs associated with respective ones of the multiple mailbox partitions, and

a controller that stores a voicemail message in a partition associated with one of the unique IDs and that effects transmission of a change in voicemail status ~~stored in a partition associated with one of the unique IDs~~ during the message notification server-initiated voicemail status call.

26. (*currently amended*) The improvement of claim 25, wherein the ~~controller~~ transmits transmitted voicemail status message includes one of multiple unique ~~caller~~ IDs so as to identify a specific partition of the multiple mailbox partitions having a new voicemail message.

27. (*currently amended*) In a telephone network that includes a voicemail server and a call-back message notification server, the improvement comprising:

a controller of said message notification server that automatically effects a voicemail status call to a subscriber device in response to one of receipt of a new voicemail message for the subscriber, a change in message status, and a lapse of a predetermined period of time since a receiving a prior call at the voicemail server from the subscriber to retrieve messages.

28. *(currently amended)* In a telephone network that includes a voicemail server that stores messages and a message notification server that notifies a subscriber device of a message stored in the voicemail server by initiating a voicemail status call to the subscriber callback, the improvement comprising:

at least one unique assigned ID number associated with the status of messages of at said voicemail server for that subscriber, and

a controller responsive to the subscriber a ~~CPE~~ device to transmit the a unique ID number for that subscriber during the voicemail status call, according to the status of messages for that subscriber at of said voicemail server.

29. *(currently amended)* The improvement of claim 28, wherein a first one unique ID number is transmitted when a new voicemail message is present for the subscriber and a second another unique ID number is transmitted when no voicemail message is present for the subscriber.

30. *(currently amended)* The improvement of claim 28, wherein each unique ID number comprises a caller-ID number for display on the subscriber device.